

thological collection from the Serra dos Orgãos, which I left under the care of my cousin at Colonia Alpina.

Ornithologists will see that our careful observations do not agree with the statements of Ménériés. It need not, however, be supposed that this author invented his statements. They may be explained by supposing that he confounded *Sclerurus* with some other bird. *Sclerurus* is, as Mr. Selater remarks, an isolated aberrant genus. If the statements as to its nidification and the colour of its egg, as given by Ménériés, were true, its affinity with the Formicariidæ would gain probability. But, proved as it is now that the bird is a hole-breeder and that it has pure-white eggs, the systematic position of *Sclerurus* among the Dendrocolaptidæ, as proposed by Mr. Selater, becomes a scientific necessity.

XXVIII.—*On some Chinese Species of the Genus Alcippe.*

By F. W. STYAN.

As some confusion exists as regards those Chinese species of *Alcippe* which are closely allied to *A. nipalensis* of India, I have lately attempted to clear up the difficulty by a careful examination of a long series of examples from various districts. Mr. de La Touche and Mr. Rickett have kindly entrusted me with their Formosan and Fukien specimens; my own collector sends a number of skins from Ichang, in Western China; and the fine set in the British Museum, with which the late Mr. Seebohm's specimens are now incorporated, has been at my service.

The conclusion arrived at is that there are three Chinese forms entitled to specific or subspecific rank. I include the Formosan bird, for although the island is now politically part of Japan, it has hitherto been included ornithologically in China.

These three forms are quite distinct from the Indian species, and have certain constant characters by which they may be distinguished *inter se*. They were all recognized by Père David, who, however, subsequently modified his

opinion ('Ois. de la Chine,' p. 218), and united the two continental species to *A. nipalensis*. The species from Western China was originally described by him as *A. cinerea*, a name which, unfortunately, cannot stand, having been previously applied to another bird. I propose, therefore, to resuscitate that species, under the name of its discoverer, as *Alcippe davidi*; the Fukien bird will retain Père David's title of *A. hueti*, and the Formosan will stand as Swinhoe's *A. morrisonia*.

Thus we have :—

1. *ALCIPPE DAVIDI*, sp. nov.

A. cinerea, David, Nouv. Arch. Mus. vii. Bull. p. 14, 1871 (nec Blyth).

A. nipalensis, David, Ois. de la Chine, p. 218 (nec Hodgson).

Hab. Western China.

Of this species I have a long series of specimens from Ichang.

2. *ALCIPPE HUETI*.

A. hueti, David, Ann. Sci. Nat. (5) xix. art. 9, p. 4, 1874.

A. nipalensis, David, Ois. de la Chine, p. 218 (nec Hodgson).

A. hueti, Seebohm, P. Z. S. 1890, p. 343.

A. hueti, Slater, Ibis, 1891, p. 42.

Hab. Fukien province; probably ranging throughout Southern China.

3. *ALCIPPE MORRISONIA*.

A. morrisonia, Swinhoe, Ibis, 1863, p. 296.

A. morrisoniana, Sharpe, Cat. Birds B. M. vii. p. 621.

B. morrisoni, Seebohm, P. Z. S. 1890, p. 343.

Hab. The island of Formosa.

The most constant distinctive characters of these three species and *A. nipalensis* are tabulated on p. 311.

Legs and feet in dry skin.	Pale yellow-brown.	Very distinct.	White.	Light buff.	Olivaceous.	Yellow, a little black at base of upper mandible.	<i>Alcippes palensis</i>
	Dusky brown.	Very faint.	Grey.	Light buff.	Olivaceous.	Brownish black, slightly paler at extreme tip.	<i>A. davidi</i>
	Dusky brown.	Faint.	Grey.	Light vinous buff.	Sandy buff, slightly washed with olive.	Ditto.	<i>A. huetti</i>
	Pale yellow-brown.	Distinct.	White.	Light sandy buff.	Sandy buff.	Ditto.	<i>A. morrissonia</i>

The tints of the upper parts of these species are less constant, and cannot be followed as characters, but on the average the Chinese birds are much greyer on the head than the Indian. The colour of the bill readily distinguishes the latter, but the legs cannot be relied upon in dried skins. *A. morrissonia* is the smallest in size; the others are of about the same dimensions. *A. huetti* is intermediate between the western continental and the island species.

From Ichang I have also obtained specimens of an *Alcippe* of a very different type, closely allied to *A. brunnea*, for which I propose the name

ALCIPPE OLIVACEA, sp. nov.

General colour of crown and back olive-brown, verging to fulvous brown on the rump; the feathers of forehead and crown with darker edgings, which give a scaly appearance. Wings deep brown, edged with fulvous; tail fulvous brown, brighter on the outer edges. Ring round the eye, lores, and ear-coverts fulvous, rest of sides of face and neck pale greyish brown. A broad black streak bordering the crown on each side, and extending down the back of the neck, where the two almost meet. Chin, throat, and abdomen dull white, tinged with greyish brown. Sides of breast and flanks earthy, washed with olive-brown on thighs and under tail-coverts. Bill horny brown. Legs and feet (in skin) light horny brown, claws whitish.

Tarsus 0·9 in.; wing 2·5; tail 2·9.

This species is distinguished from *A. brunnea* by its olive upper parts, long tail, and brown, instead of black, bill. Also the sides of the face and neck are almost free from the scaly appearance shown in the other species.

XXIX.—*Descriptions of some new Eggs from the Bloomfield-River District, North Queensland.* By D. LE SOUËF, Melbourne.

1. *PODARGUS PAPUENSIS*, Quoy & Gaim.

The nest of the Papuan Podargus was found by Mr. R. Hislop on October 20th, 1894. It was composed of small sticks loosely put together, somewhat similar to that of a Pigeon; it was built on the horizontal branch of a small tree and contained one white egg, of an elongated oval shape, and measuring 5·44 × 3·42 centimetres. This bird is most difficult to detect, being so much in harmony with its surroundings. When on the nest or on a branch it holds its head on a level with the rest of its body, giving it the